ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Whitby Rural Sanitary District,

BY

JOHN B. LAVERICK, M.B., C.M., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

WHITBY:

ALFRED PORTER, PRINTER, "TIMES" OFFICE.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WHITBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my second Annual Report for your District, and thanking you for your kind treatment during the past year; and I hope we may continue to be able to work harmoniously together for the welfare and advancement of the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN B. LAVERICK, M.B.C.M., D.P.H.,

MED. OFF. OF HEALTH.

Hinderwell, Jan. 28th, 1896.

REPORT.

DURING the past year one hundred and forty-three deaths and two hundred and three births have been registered. The death rate is 15·12 per 1000, and the birth rate 21·15 per 1000 per annum. I have calculated the death and birth rates for the three most densely populated villages separately with the following results :—

	Pop. in middle of 1895.	Death Rate per 1000.	Birth Rate per 1000.
Fylingdales	1500 ...	17·3 ...	27·3
Eskdaleside-cum-Ugglebarnby ...	1800 ..	8.8 ...	15·
Lythe with Sandsend and Goldsbro'	740 ...	27· ...	17·7

It will be seen by these figures that in Fylingdales the rates correspond very closely to the rates for the whole country, and that in Eskdaleside, with a low birth rate, we find as we might expect, a very low death rate. In the Lythe township we have a very unsatisfactory state of matters, namely, a low birth rate and a high death rate. Of the total twenty deaths which were registered in the Lythe District, four occurred in children under one year of age. In other words, out of a total thirteen children born during the year practically one-third are now dead. This is a very serious matter, and the only possible explanations I can offer are that the figures are too small to rely upon absolutely, and that the small size of the houses generally is having a deleterious effect upon the health of the inhabitants.

There have been six deaths caused by zymotic diseases, and the zymotic death rate is 63 per 1000 per annum.

There have been twenty-six deaths of infants under one year of age, which is at the rate of 128 deaths per 1000 births. This is 57 per 1000 more than last year.

There have been sixty-one deaths of people over sixty-five years of age.

In calculating the above rates, I have estimated the population to be 9400 in the middle of last year, which is one hundred more than in 1891, when the census was taken.

During the past year thirty-three cases have been notified under the Infect. Dis. Notif. Act (1889); made up as follows:—

Erysipelas 14.	Typhoid Fever 5.	Scarlatina 3.
Diphtheria 9.	Croup 2.	

This number, although somewhat higher than last year, is, I consider, quite satisfactory.

There has been nothing of the nature of an epidemic of any disease. I have visited and inspected, as reported to you before, nearly all the premises on which those cases occurred. In one series of three cases of Diphtheria, although the cause was never clearly proved, it appeared probable that either the children were infected by, or infected some, pet pigeons, kept by the father of the children. Several of these pigeons died from a throat ailment about the time the children were ill, but unfortunately I was unable to get a bird for examination.

One of the cases notified originally as Typhoid Fever was eventually fatal. Before death, however, the man changed his doctor, and the death was certified as due to Acute Tuberculosis.

I regret that the Council have decided not to make bye-laws. I consider that by this decision we are allowing anyone, so minded, to build houses, ashpits, privies, &c., in such a way that they must sooner or later cause or become a nuisance injurious to health, and as such make extra work for this Council and its Officers, and entail unnecessary expenditure on the owner.

As a direct result of a resolution passed by this Council in April, many of the roadside middens have been removed or enclosed, and those still in existenec will be dealt with as soon as possible. Many of the old privy middens still remain, and unfortunately, owing to the absence of bye-laws, we are unable to prevent new ones being erected. This form of excreta disposal is always objectionable and generally causes a nuisance.

I take this opportunity to again draw your attention to the fact that the Inspector of Nuisances, in this district, works independently of the Medical Officer of Health. This is, I consider, a very bad arrangement, I am convinced that if the Inspector worked under, in fact worked as assistant to, the Medical Officer of Health, the work done would be more efficient and more could be done than is possible under the present arrangement. This would in no way interfere with or lessen the control of the Council over both Officers.

Many houses in the district have no eaves spouting and in a large number where this spouting is in place there is no drain to take away the water so collected. I intend to bring several houses in this condition under the notice of the Council at an early date.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

The question of providing a drainage scheme for Thorpe, Thorpe Lane, and Robin Hood's Bay, has come

under your notice several times during the past year. Personally, as you know, I am strongly of opinion that this work should be done, without any unnecessary delay. In May the district was visited and inspected by Dr. W. W. Cheetham, M.O.H. to the North Riding County Council, and he reported, as a result of that inspection, very strongly in favour of a drainage scheme for the three places. The last paragraph of his report was:—"I consider that the W.R.D.C. are not justified in allowing matters to remain as at present, but should without delay undertake the construction of a system of sewers sufficient to accommodate the villages of Thorpe and Bay and also Thorpe Lane, districts which at present are not sufficiently sewered." In August this Council appointed a Committee to inspect the district. This Committee met on the 4th of August, and, after inspecting the district, made a report to this Council. As result of that report a number of nuisances were ordered to be, and several have been, abated, and the Committee further reported :—"We are unable to agree that a case has been made out for a new system of sewerage." In November, Inspector Tulloch, from the Local Government Board, met this Council and afterwards inspected the district. We have not yet received any report of this visit.

I have to remind you that Sleights is drained, principally, by two old stone culverts, which have been originally road-side drains, but are now sewers, and consequently, the property of this Council. Considering the size of the village and the great prospect of an early increase in size and importance, I am of opinion that a system of sewers should be constructed by this authority.

The sewage of Lythe is discharged into the gutter on the road-side ; and in hot weather causes a

nuisance. I consider the present drain should be carried back from the road into the wood, and further I am of opinion that the question of providing a thorough sewerage scheme for Lythe and Sandsend will shortly have to engage your attention.

The Goathland sewer has been lengthened, and is, I believe, now satisfactory to everybody concerned.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The works necessary for supplying Mickleby with water have not yet been carried out, chiefly owing to the amount of time wasted by the Local Government Board, but will be commenced in March, and I expect very quickly completed.

Ugthorpe is badly supplied with water at present, and I intend, at an early date, suggesting a scheme to supply the village, for your consideration.

In April last this Council received an application from the Aislaby Parish Council, for a new water supply. Part of the village is at present supplied by a gravitation scheme, erected and maintained by private subscriptions ; but the bulk of the smaller houses (fifteen in number) have no source of supply near them, the occupiers having to fetch the water required from a spring in an old quarry called Boulby Bank, which is about a quarter of a mile from the houses. I am unable to recommend a scheme to supply these houses, the cost of which could be met by the revenue obtained from reasonable water rates.

The water supply of Beckhole is at present very unsatisfactory. The people have to fetch the water from a spring in the rock by the side of the river; but when the river is flooded the road to this spring is

blocked. I certainly think that the request of the inhabitants to have the water brought in pipes should be complied with, and the work put in hand at once. The cost of such work would be small.

The Egton village pump and well have been repaired, and the supply of water is now satisfactory.

The water supply to High Street, Glaisdale, is still unsatisfactory, but as the Council have already served notices under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, I suppose the pump will shortly be renovated.

General and Zymotic Death Rates and Births Rates per 1000 for the past five years.

	General Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Birth Rate.
1891.	16·6	1·2	23·8
1892.	11·8	·91	21·9
1893.	12·6	1	18·5
1894.	11·39	·42	15·15
1895.	15·2	·63	21·5

Death Rates per 1000 in Lythe Township for the past six years.

1890.	24·3
1891.	17·5
1892.	25·6
1893.	21·6
1894.	9·7
1895.	27

Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the Whitby Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Name of Locality.	Mortality from all causes.							Mortality from subjoined causes.									
	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.	Total.
Eskdaleside-cum-Ugglebarnby	16	3	2	0	1	4	6	...	2	1	...	1	2	1	...	9	16
Fylingdales	26	5	0	0	0	11	10	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	...	16	26
Lythe and Sandsend ...	20	4	2	1	1	3	9	...	...	...	...	3	5	2	...	10	20
Remainder of the District ...	81	14	7	0	3	21	36	1	1	...	1	2	6	9	3	58	81
Totals	143	26	11	1	5	39	61	1	3	1	1	8	16	17	3	93	143

Smallpox	Puerpual Fever	Rheumatic Fever	None.
Scarlatina	Cholera		
Croup	Measles		
Typhus Fever	Erysipelas		

Whitby Rural Sanitary Authority.

Extracts from the Inspector of Nuisances' Reports for the Year 1895.

JANUARY.

Went to Goathland and instructed J. Hill to cover the outlet of sewage drain near the Church when the weather broke.

Reported that I served a preliminary notice on Mr. Reid agent to the Marquis of Normanby, to abate a nuisance by the removal of ash-pit and privy from near the door of R. Moody, Lythe. Also to provide privy accommodation to a cottage occupied by Miss Spark, at Lythe. Visited Bay twice during the month.

FEBRUARY.

From instructions at last meeting, served notices personally on the 7th of February, on Messrs. Fewster, Cooper, Beadle, Wellburn, Newton, and Thompson, all butchers, at Robin Hood's Bay, to discontinue at once putting butcher's offal, such as blood, beast's and sheep insides, into the public ash-pits, also on the manager of the Gas Works, to abate a nuisance by allowing refuse from the Gas Works to run into a culvert drain down the Town Street. I also instructed E. Russell to fix the two shoots to shoot the refuse over the cliff, and put a drain from the ash-pit, Fisherhead, down into the sewage drain. The nuisances at Lythe, complained of last month, have been abated.

MARCH.

In respect of the notice I served on Mrs. Bulmer, Sleights, last month, she asked for a little time on account of the weather, but I visited her on the 29th, and saw she had commenced to drain it another way.

Reported that I had served a notice on Isaac Watson, Stainsacre, to abate a nuisance by removing some scavenging manure from near the highway.

Also served a notice on G. Burnett, Hawsker, to abate a nuisance by allowing the sewage from his premises, to flow on the public road

Also reported that when at Robin Hood's Bay, noticed that E. Russell had commenced to drain from the ash-pit down into the sewage drain, also the fixing of the shoots on the high cliff, as mentioned in my last report.

Also reported that Mr. White, agent for Messrs. Fosters. Egton Bridge, had not got drains, privies, &c., completed, having

had notice served last September. Had also a complaint about a well near the school at Egton losing its water.

APRIL.

Reported that I had a letter from Mr. Gladstone, West Hartlepool, complaining of some pigs being kept too near some property of his at Grosmont. I went and measured the distance, and found it 21 yards from the nearest house. The authority could not see their way to interfere, as they thought it a nice distance away for a rural village like Grosmont.

Also reported that I met a Committee chosen from the above authority at Iburndale, to inspect the water supply complained of by the Medical Officer, but they thought as nearly all the village belongs to Mrs. Sellars, and she having plenty of water in her pump, and being willing for them to get their water there, they thought there was no need for them to incur any expense at present.

Also reported that I met a Committee chosen from the above authority at Aislaby, to inspect the water supply complained of there, there are are a few houses which have a little distance to carry their water at present, but the Parish Council intend extending the present water from the lower part of the village higher up, nearer the above houses mentioned.

Also reported that we had commenced with the well at Egton. It will be rather an expensive job.

Also reported that E. Russell had got the drain and shoots done at Robin Hood's Bay, as mentioned at last meeting.

Also reported that the nuisances at Hawsker and Stainsacre as mentioned at your last meeting had been abated.

MAY.

Reported that the raising of the water into the well at Egton was completed.

Reported that I met Dr. Laverick, your Medical Officer, and Dr. Cheetham, the Medical Officer for the North Riding County Council, at Robin Hood's Bay, on the 8th of May, to inspect and view the proposed sewerage scheme. There were two District Councillors and some of the Parish Councillors present. Dr. Cheetham told us nothing would be done at present as the County Council did not meet until July to consider his report.

Reported that I went with Dr. Laverick, your Medical Officer, on the 23rd, to Goathland, as instructed at your last meeting, to view the complaint of Messrs. Russell and Mackaye respecting a drain near the New Hotel, of which the Doctor gave you his opinion.

I also reported that I wrote to Mr. Gough, agent for a farm, occupied by Mr. Ward, Eskdaleside, on the 23rd, asking him to abate a nuisance ot the above place by draining away some sewage and enclosing a midden from the highway. I got a letter from him on the 27th, saying he would have it done at an early date, which he did.

JUNE.

Reported that I went to Glaisdale as instructed at your ast meeting, and got a sample of the water, and sent it to the Medical Officer to get analysed. Seen the Doctor since and he says it is all right, so it must be the iron barrel that makes it such a bad colour.

Reported that I served a notice on Mr. Drewitt, Robin Hood's Bay, on the 3rd, to discontinue using a drain from his water closet which he had laid into a culvert drain in the street which is for surface water only. I visited there again on the 24th and found he had made it all right.

Reported that as instructed at last meeting, served a notice on Mr. Harrison, Goathland, on the 4th, to abate a nuisance by not allowing the sewage from his premises to flow into the highway gutter. I visited there on the 25th and found the nuisance abated.

Reported that I had served a notice on J. W. Richardson, Esq., J.P., Sneaton, on the 10th, to provide a drain for slops, washings, &c., for some cottages owned by him at that place. I visited there again on the 24th, and found the nuisance abated.

Received a letter from Mrs. Sellars, Iburndale, complaining of the smell from the Mill Dam, belonging to Mr. Jackson, Miller. I visited there on the 4th, and found about 2 feet of sludge in it and no doubt it will smell when not covered with water. I saw Mr. Jackson, and he told me he would have it cleaned out when he got his hay, which he has done since.

Reported that I had a complaint about the water supply at Beck Hole, Goathland. I went and viewed it on the 5th. They have plenty of good water any time but when a fresh is down the beck, they have to cross the beck to get to it. They could get a good supply, but would cost about £50. They had a Parish meeting about it, but decided not to press it at present.

JULY.

Reported that, as instructed at last meeting, I went to Goathland, and measured the drain that Messrs. Russell and Mackaye complained of at a former meeting. It is 220 yards long, and will cost over £20, but understood by Messrs. Russell and Mackaye's letter they will meet us with part cost.

Reported that when at Robin Hood's Bay on the 23rd, I instructed E. Kirk to take up about 12 yards of culvert drain which was blocked, and lay with sanitary pipes; also to cement some grates to prevent people from taking them up and putting solid matter down them; also to remove some large stones from bottom of arch to give the water a freer course; also — Bedale to put in 18 or 20 yards of sanitary drain at Thorpe, to take some sewage more direct into the stream.

Also had a complaint of a nuisance at Ugthorpe arising from the slops and washings from the vicarage and school running into the highway gutter. I went on the 31st and saw the Vicar. He promised to abate the nuisance, which he has done.

AUGUST.

Went to Goathland on the 19th, and met Mr. Mackaye, the solicitor for Mr. McEchern, respecting the sewage drain complained of near the new Hotel. He offered to be at half the cost of putting a new drain down the field, the cost of which will be about £24, so there will be about £12 for this Authority to pay.

Reported a case of Typhoid Fever near Grosmont, imported from near Middlesborough, a young man 31 years of age named Parnamby. He came home ill from the above place. I visited the place on the 22nd, and gave them a note to come to Whitby and get some disinfectants, and gave them instructions to take every care, but they appeared to be doing all they could by using tar, and the young man died two days after I was there.

Reported that I met a committee chosen from the above Authority, along with your Medical Officer and several District and Parish Councillors at Robin Hood's Bay and Thorpe on the 13th, to inspect and view the suggestions Dr. Cheetham had pointed out in his report. After viewing the several places complained of, they proposed to hold a meeting at the Board Room on the following Saturday, but neither the Medical Officer nor myself, nor any Councillors for the Township were to be present, so I don't know what decision they arrived at.

SEPTEMBER.

Reported that the pipes arrived for the Sanitary drain at Goathland on 20th., and was carted away to the place. I also engaged two men to cut the drain.

Served notice by registered letter on the executors of the late W. Harrison, Paddock, Whitby, on the 21st, to provide some proper place for ashes, nightsoil, &c., for some tenants occupying some cottages owned by them at Thorpe, they having laid it near the Highway causing a nuisance.

Also served notice on the same date on Mrs. Parkinson, Thorpe, to discontinue putting slops, washings, and other refuse into the Beck or Stream, where some people have to water their cattle.

I also reported nuisance on premises occupied by T. Allison Hawsker, and was instructed to serve notice to abate the same on the Owner or Agent.

OCTOBER.

Reported that the drain at Goathland is nearly finished.

Also I have had several complaints when at Goathland about the privy accommodation to three cottage houses owned by the Township. They have only one privy for the three houses, and they cannot agree about keeping it clean. I was instructed to see the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Reported a case of typhoid fever at Sleights, but in a mild form. I visited there on the 31st, and found they had got some disinfectants, and were taking every care.

Reported that nothing had been done in respect of the notice I served on the Executors of the late W. Harrison to abate a nuisance at Thorpe, but saw Mr. C. Harrison this morning, and he promised to attend to it at once.

I have seen Mr. Warters, the agent for the property at Hawsker, where I reported a nuisance at your last meeting. He told me to send him a proper notice, and he would forward it to the proper quarter.

NOVEMBER.

Sanitary drain at Goathland is completed with the exception of putting sods on. We thought it had better settle awhile before it was sodded

Served notice on Mr. Warters, agent, on the 4th, to abate a nuisance on Allison's property, at Hawsker mentioned at last meeting.

Served notice on Messrs. M. R. and Sarah Breckon, on the 20th, they being the owners of a cottage house at Sleights, to either put it in better repair or close it within 28 days.

Served notice on Mr. Reid, agent for the Marquis of Normanby, on the 22nd, to provide better privy accommodation to Lewis Farm House, Kettleness.

Served preliminary notice on Mr. Thompson, Lealholm Bridge, on the 5th, to remove and discontinue using the place as a midden, it being too near the road.

Reported that the executors of the late W. Harrison have complied with the notice mentioned at last meeting to abate a nuisance at Thorpe.

The nuisance at Lewis Farm House, Kettleness, has been abated.

DECEMBER.

Served the following notices on the 16th, viz:—the Station Master, Robin Hood's Bay, to have the cesspool belonging the Station cleaned out at least four times a year; also on Mr. Conyers to have his cesspool cleaned out three or four times a year; also on the Rev. R. J. Cooper to have the privies belonging to Thorpe School provided with galvanised pans or pails and regularly attended to; also on Mr. Stubbs to have his pigstye floor cemented and kept in a cleaner state; also on Mr. Newton, butcher, to remove his midden and discontinue using the place for that purpose.

Reported that Mr. Warters had not done anything in respect of the notice sent him to abate the nuisance at Hawsker, he being very ill.

Served a preliminary notice on J. Stevenson, Esq., J.P., on the 31st, to abate a nuisance by draining some other way the sewage from Summer Field Farm, near Hawsker, owned by him, and prevent it running into the highway gutter.

The case of typhoid fever at Sleights is better, and no more cases have arisen.

Reported two cases of scarlatina at Ling Hill, near Hawsker, of the name of Stangoe. I visited there on the 28th and found they were in a mild form. I left a printed form of precautions, and told them to take every care.

Also reported some cases of Diphtheria at Low Heulah Farm, near Dunsley. I visited there on the 30th, and found one child eighteen months old dead, and other two ill, but heard since they are recovering. I left a printed form of precautions, and told them to get some disinfectants and take every care. It was imported from Danby, they having hired a servant girl from there, and have found out she had been ill with the complaint before she came.

There are a great many more minor matters which I have had complaints about, such as drains being blocked, want of privy accommodation, &c., which after seeing the owners, have been attended to, and not been named in my report.

There have been no legal proceedings taken during the past year.

JOHN JACKSON, Inspector of Nuisances.